

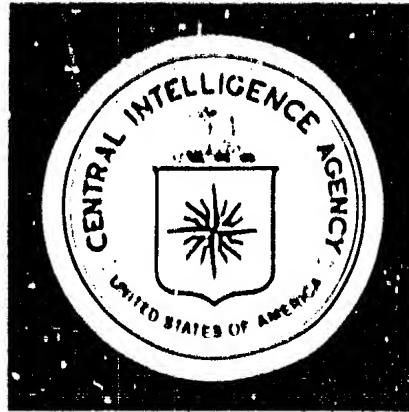
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Cease-Fire Developments

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Government forces regained control over the last contested section of Route 5 some 50 miles northwest of Phnom Penh on 29 May. Heavy air strikes over the weekend opened the way for the final push, which ended the Communists' two-month interdiction of the highway. It may be some time before the road is opened to traffic, however, because several bridges must be repaired or bypassed. Elsewhere in the north, two small government positions near Kompong Cham City were harassed by the Communists on 29 May. In the Phnom Penh region, the Communists attacked a government battalion just southeast of Neak Luong, but it was generally quiet elsewhere along the Mekong. Farther south, the Communists carried out ground probes against a number of government defensive positions around the town of Takeo.

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Sihanouk's Latest Comments

During a press conference in Rabat on 29 May, Sihanouk reportedly reiterated his willingness to establish diplomatic relations with the US as soon as it "abandons the traitors of Phnom Penh." According to the report, he also repeated that he would never negotiate with Lon Nol, but would discuss a "peace with honor" with President Nixon. Sihanouk is quoted as saying that Cambodia is "not a satellite" of North Vietnam and that he has sent a telegram to Le Duc Tho stating that the future of Cambodia must be discussed with Cambodians.

The mouthpiece of Sihanouk's "government," the "Cambodian Information Agency," has had some harsh things to say about peace prospects. In a broadcast on 29 May--which repeated a statement made by one of Sihanouk's "ministers"--the following points were stressed:

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- The recent talks between Dr. Kissinger and Le Duc Tho can apply only to Vietnam. The Cambodian problem must be solved by Cambodians.
- The war will continue until US "aggression" ends and the Lon Nol "clique" is removed from power.
- There will never be any direct or indirect negotiations or contacts with the Lon Nol government.

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